

New Fee Structure

Posted on 9/1/2004

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New Fee Structure for Collectors Society and ANA members

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Early Bird and World Standard will increase to \$30, while Gold Rush and World Gold will be \$21. Economy and World Value will experience slight increases to \$16 and \$14, respectively. The fee for Office Reholder will now be \$5.

The separate Tiers for Tokens and Medals have been eliminated, and these must now be submitted under regular grading Tiers. The usual conditions for these Tiers will apply.

NGC's on-site show grading remains unchanged at \$100 for coins valued over \$1500, while those valued at \$1500 or less will now be \$65. Gold coins valued at \$1000 or less, when submitted five or more at a time, will be \$40 per coin. Guaranteed delivery within four hours of submission at shows may be purchased for an additional \$150 per coin under NGC's Expedite Service. Show Reholder remains at \$10 (\$50 for coins valued over \$10,000).

NGC's Photo Proof Services have been revised as follows: Deluxe will be \$50, and Classic is priced at \$40. The Passport is now \$28. Duplicates of the Deluxe,

Classic and Passport are \$20 each. The Photo Proof Paradigm will cost \$20 for one copy, \$17 for 2-10 copies of the same title, and \$15 for 11 or more of the same title.

For a complete listing of NGC Services, please visit [Services and Submissions](#).

New Fee Structure for NGC Authorized Dealers

Effective October 1, 2004, NGC will be implementing a new fee structure for some of its services.

Dealers, please login to the [Dealer Area of the NGC website](#) for a complete listing of NGC Services and pricing information. If you do not already have a login, please contact Customer Service by calling 1.800.NGC.Coin.

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NGC Certifies Extremely Rare "Strawberry Cent"

Posted on 9/1/2004

One of the legendary rarities of American numismatics, the finest known 1793 Strawberry Leaf cent, has resurfaced after being off the market for more than 60 years.

Parmelee Specimen Reappears After a 60-year Absence

One of the legendary rarities of American numismatics, the finest known 1793 Strawberry Leaf cent, has resurfaced after being off the market for more than 60 years. NGC has authenticated and graded this coin as F-12.



One of just four examples known, this cent is an example of the Flowing Hair Liberty with Wreath reverse. What sets it apart from nearly all other Wreath cents is the distinctive plant sprig that appears just above the date. While most Wreath cents have very plain leaves, the so-called "Strawberry Leaf" cents have distinctive trefoils, or three-lobed leaves. Over the years this variety has been known variously as "Cotton Leaf" or "Clover Leaf," but it is the name "Strawberry Leaf" that seems to have stuck and become dear to the hearts of large cent specialists.

Few collectors have ever seen an example of this very rare variety, so seldom does one appear for sale. According to numismatic researcher John Kraljevich of American Numismatic Rarities in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, this specimen is one of just four known in all. One is permanently impounded in the collection of the American Numismatic Society in New York, while two others belong to advanced cent collector Dan Holmes. In Kraljevich's estimation, the cent which recently surfaced after being sequestered for more than 60 years is the finest of the four. It is notable also as the plate coin in the 2005 edition of R. S. Yeoman's *A Guide Book of United States Coins*.

American Numismatic Rarities of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire will sell the coin as part of their November 2004 auction in Baltimore, Maryland, marking the first time an auction has included a Strawberry Leaf cent since 1984 and the first time this specimen has been sold at auction since 1890.

The story of how this coin resurfaced after decades in hiding is quite intriguing. It began a few months ago when a lady entered the store of Republic Jewelry & Collectibles in Auburn, Maine. She stated to an employee that she had with her a very rare Strawberry Leaf cent dated 1793, so the employee called over owner Dan Cunliffe to view it. The lady told a story of how her father had purchased this coin around 1941 and had presented it to her mother as an anniversary gift. In August of 1943 the father was killed in action in the Pacific Theater, and his widow put the coin away as a cherished memento. It was later hidden from sight inside a bank vault and only rarely spoken of within the family until a few weeks ago. With the recent passing of the widow, this coin became the responsibility of her heirs, who determined that it should be returned to the numismatic market that would appreciate its great significance.

The cent was contained in a ragged envelope indicating that its purchase price in the 1940s had been just \$2750. Reaching for a copy of Yeoman's *Guide Book*, it appeared to the dealer that this was indeed the very rare Strawberry Leaf cent. He agreed that the coin was extremely valuable and a museum caliber rarity.

The family wanted to place the coin in a public auction, believing this to be the safest and surest method of determining a fair market value, so John Pack of American Numismatic Rarities was contacted. From the description of the coin over the phone, Pack identified this specimen as the plate coin in Yeoman's *Guide Book* and thus the same specimen included in the famous 19th Century Collection of Lorin G. Parmelee. Given the great value and importance of this coin, Pack arranged to travel to Maine to provide for its insurance and secure shipment to NGC. It has now been encapsulated by NGC with the pedigree designation PARMELEE COLLECTION.

The newly-certified Strawberry Leaf cent has been attributed under NGC's VarietyPlus service as Sheldon variety NC-3. (Dr. William H. Sheldon's reference book on early cents designates varieties as "non-collectible" [NC] when too few examples are known for a collector to have a reasonable chance of owning one.)

"This is history in the making," said NGC Chairman and CEO Mark Salzberg. "It's just incredible that this extremely rare coin could have surfaced in such a casual manner after being unseen since the 1940s. I'm very pleased that John Pack and

Dan Cunliffe placed their trust in NGC by allowing us to encapsulate this historic piece. This may be the only example that is ever certified, and it was a real thrill to examine it."

American Numismatic Rarities may be reached at 603-569-0823 or toll-free at 866-811-1804. Its website is www.anrcoins.com.

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NGC Certifies Finest Set of Gold Commems

Posted on 9/1/2004

A complete set of United States gold commemorative coins has been graded and encapsulated by NGC. It includes several finest certified pieces.

A complete set of United States gold commemorative coins has been graded and encapsulated by NGC. It includes several finest certified pieces. Comprising 14 coins in all, this set ranges in date from the first issues of 1903 through the final gold commemorative of the classic period in 1926. Each carries the pedigree of Swiss America Trading Corporation and Dr. William Merritt.

50 Pan Pac Oct



This is by far the finest set of gold commemoratives in NGC's Certified Collectibles Registry (www.collectors-society.com). Swiss America worked with Dr. Merritt for over five years to assemble this amazing collection.

G1 1922



Starting with the Louisiana Purchase Exposition gold dollar of 1903, the type featuring a bust of Thomas Jefferson includes both mint state and proof examples. The former is a superb gem grading MS-67, the highest grade assigned by NGC. It is accompanied by a fabulous proof certified as PF-66 Ultra Cameo. Rounding out this first issue is the type having a bust of William McKinley. This lovely coin displays charming orange toning on both sides and grades a magnificent MS-67.

Of particular interest in this, the bicentennial year of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, are the two coins issued for the exposition held in Portland, Oregon for the centennial of that historic event. Dated 1904 and 1905 respectively, each piece

certified by NGC is the finest of its type graded. The 1904 edition is a phenomenal MS-68 and also bears the NGC star designation for superior eye appeal. The 1905 coin of identical design is a remarkable MS-67 and is attractively toned.

The Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915 resulted in no less than four gold commemorative coins, and each is represented in this set by extremely desirable examples. Charles Keck's gold dollar and Charles Barber's quarter eagle are each tied for the finest certified by NGC. The awesome fifty-dollar pieces by Robert Aitken, coined in both round and octagonal editions, are both gems graded MS-65 by NGC.

G1 1904



The rare gold dollars struck to raise funds for the erection of a memorial to slain President William McKinley are dated either 1916 or 1917, and superb examples of both issues are included in this set. Each one grades MS-67, the highest grades assigned by NGC.

The very popular Grant Centennial gold dollars, coined both with and without a star above the date, are each the finest certified by NGC of their respective varieties. Both grade an almost unbelievable MS-68.

Completing this memorable set of gold commemoratives is the quarter eagle coined in 1926 for the sesquicentennial of American Independence. Grading an incredible MS-67, this specimen is the single finest piece certified by NGC.

"This is a truly amazing collection of coins," observed Mark Salzberg, Chairman and CEO of NGC. "It's a real treat to handle pieces of such outstanding quality. These coins are simply amazing for their originality and pristine appearance."

These coins were submitted to NGC by Swiss America Trading Corporation, which may be contacted at 15018 N. Tatum Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85032. The company's telephone number is 800-BUY-COIN (289-2646).

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United States



NGC Certifies Gem Set of Gold Dollars

Posted on 9/1/2004

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A complete series of Type 3 proof gold dollars has been graded and encapsulated by NGC as the Riordan Collection. Extending from 1856 through the end of coinage in 1889, the average condition of these coins is outstanding. All of these proofs are quite rare, with mintages typically in the low dozens and a survival rate even lower.

G1 1856



Opening with the very rare issue of 1856, the Riordan Collection features the former Harry Bass, Jr. specimen, which NGC has certified as PF-65 Ultra Cameo, making it the finest example the company has graded. Another extremely rare proof is the gold dollar of 1857, also a Bass example. At PF-66 Cameo, this is also the finest example certified by NGC.

One of the condition rarities of this collection is the 1860 gold dollar. The Riordan specimen is the only Ultra Cameo example certified by NGC and grades an impressive PF-66.

G1 1860



Some of the 1868 gold dollar proofs are known with the dies in medal alignment, 180 degrees from normal, and the Riordan Collection example possesses this peculiar feature. At PF-66 Cameo, it is also the finest piece of its date certified by NGC.

One of the top rarities in the gold dollar series is the 1873

issue, all the proofs of this date having the Closed 3 date style used early in that year. Grading PF-65 Cameo, it is another coin that is the finest certified by NGC.

Perhaps the most desired rarity in this long series is the 1875 proof, of which only 400 coins were made for circulation and a mere 20 proofs. The Riordan Collection's example is superb, grading an amazing PF-66 Ultra Cameo. It is tied with one other specimen as the finest of its date certified by NGC.

Also having a mintage of just 20 pieces is the very rare 1878 proof gold dollar. Yet again, the Riordan Collection features the finest example certified by NGC, a superb gem grading PF-66 Ultra Cameo.

The Riordan Collection was submitted to NGC by Jeff Garrett of Mid-American Rare Coin. The company may be contacted at 1707 Nicholasville Road, Lexington, KY 40503 or by calling 859-276-1551. The email address is coinman4u@aol.com.

G1 1904



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The 1982 Washington Half Dollar

Posted on 9/1/2004

During all the years I was growing up, it seemed a certainty that the U. S. Mint would never again strike commemorative coins...

David Lange

During all the years I was growing up, it seemed a certainty that the U. S. Mint would never again strike commemorative coins. The Treasury Department had vigorously opposed any new proposals that were raised. Everyone I knew in the hobby had long since stopped campaigning for new coins, and this had a dampening effect on the value of existing issues. In fact, the market for commemoratives seemed rather dormant throughout the 1960s and '70s. Even during the big coin market run-up of 1978-81, this series participated only peripherally.

Then, at the end of 1981, things changed quite suddenly. Though I read all the popular numismatic periodicals regularly, I remember being surprised at the announcement of a new commemorative coin. Perhaps I was just too absorbed in studying old coins to follow news stories relating to current issues, yet it seemed that the half dollar honoring the 250th anniversary of George Washington's birth in 1982 came out of nowhere. In fact, it had been approved by the House as far back as May of 1981. Signed into law by President Reagan on December 23, 1981 this bill provided for the coining of not more than ten million half dollars to be dated 1982 and minted no later than December 31, 1983.

Not specified were the mints at which this coin type was to be made. This was an oversight common to many of the commemorative bills of the 1920s and '30s and one that compelled collectors to purchase three-coin sets to keep their collections complete. Fortunately for buyers of the Washington half dollar, the Mint demonstrated admirable constraint in that only two mint facilities produced these coins. Denver coined the regular edition, while San Francisco provided the proof

coinage. These were priced by the Mint at \$8.50 and \$10.50, respectively.

In many ways the Washington commemorative seems to belong more to the classic era of 1892-1954 commemoratives than it did to the numerous issues that followed it. First, it was a half dollar, like most of the earlier issues, and it was coined solely in the traditional composition of .900 silver and .100 copper. Second, though the Denver Mint pieces were probably struck twice to bring out their design, they were otherwise handled as normal production coins. They evidently were ejected mechanically from the press and permitted to tumble into hoppers, where they made contact with other coins. Subsequent commemorative coins appear to have been removed from the press one at a time and handled with some care, as they are seldom found with the numerous bagmarks that are a problem with the 1982-D Washington halves. Finally, though the dies were replaced before they developed actual flowlines, the uncirculated coins struck at Denver have a fairly normal finish to them. They thus look more like uncirculated silver coins of earlier years. In later commemorative programs, the coins advertised by the Mint as having an "uncirculated" finish are in fact satin proofs, struck two or three times from specially prepared dies having a uniform texture throughout.

I've long admired the manner in which Congress and the Mint sold these coins. No extensive marketing was required, and nearly all coins were sold to existing customers on the Mint's mailing list. All profits were directed toward reduction of the national debt, while most subsequent programs have benefited various private or quasi-public organizations. If there was one failing in this program, it was that sales were not terminated soon enough. There was no specified cutoff date in the authorizing act, so these coins were available from the Mint through the end of 1985. Before that time, the prices had been raised to \$10 for the uncirculated edition and \$12 for proofs, which did slow sales and offer some theoretical protection to those who had already purchased their coins. Yet, though the remaining pieces were melted, net sales were simply too high for this coin issue to maintain its value. Prices fell over the next few years, and uncertified examples of either finish remain available below issue price to this day.

With the recent widespread popularity of modern coin issues, particularly those graded and encapsulated by third parties, top-grade examples of the Washington half dollar trade at considerably more than their raw counterparts. This is especially true of the 1982-D uncirculated halves, which are easily the rarest of the modern commemoratives in high grades.

I'd like to leave you with one personal anecdote relating to the Washington half dollar. When a friend of mine retired from the San Francisco Mint in 1987, he was

permitted to take a few people on guided tours of that facility, which is normally not open to the public. In the basement I was treated to the sight of unsold proof 1982-S Washington halves, still in their plastic capsules, being run through an upsetting mill. This machine, which is normally used to form a rim on planchets prior to striking, provided enough compression to shatter the plastic capsules. While plastic shards went in every direction, requiring us to wear safety goggles, the coins were freed in a quick and efficient manner so that they could then move on to the melting oven. Seeing thousands of scratched and scuffed proofs piled up in a hopper is an experience I'll never forget.

David W. Lange's column "USA Coin Album" appears monthly in Numismatist, the official publication of the American Numismatic Association.

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